

Application No. 09/912,181
Amendment dated December 2, 2003
Reply to Office Action of June 5, 2003

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-28 are pending in the application. The Examiner rejected Claims 1-21. Claims 22-28 are added by the current Amendment.

Specification

Responsive to the Examiner's objection to the specification, Applicant has amended page 4, line 23 in accordance with the Examiner's suggestion.

Responsive to the Examiner's indication that the expression "inner cannulated member" should read --inner cannula member-- throughout the specification because the word "cannulated" is not a word in the dictionary, Applicant herewith submits a printed dictionary definition of "cannulated" for the Examiner's convenience.

Claim Objections

Responsive to the Examiner's objections to Claims 2-5, 8, 9, 15-18 based on the expression "inner cannulated member", Applicant directs the Examiner's attention to the enclosed dictionary definition of the word "cannulated".

Claim Rejections

The Examiner rejected all pending claims under either 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,250,572 (hereinafter "Chen '572") or under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over Chen '572 in view of one or more secondary references. Applicant herewith submits a Declaration Under 37 C.F.R. §1.131 swearing behind Chen '572 and thereby traversing the Examiner's rejections of the pending claims.

New Claims

New dependent Claims 22-28 are added by the current amendment. These claims are patentable with the claims from which they depend.

It is believed that the above represents a complete response to the Official Action and reconsideration is requested. Specifically, Applicants respectfully submit that the current application is in condition for allowance and such action is earnestly solicited.

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In the event Applicant has overlooked the need for an extension of time or payment of fee, Applicant hereby petitions therefor and authorizes that any charges be made to Deposit Account No. 02-0385, BAKER & DANIELS.

If any questions concerning this application should arise, the Examiner is encouraged to telephone the undersigned at 219/424-8000.

Respectfully submitted,



Michael D. Schwartz
Registration No. 44,326
Attorney for Applicant

MS/pas
Enclosure(s):
Postcard
Definition of "cannulated"
BAKER & DANIELS
111 E. Wayne Street, Suite 800
Fort Wayne, IN 46802
Telephone: 219-424-8000
Facsimile: 219-460-1700

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS CORRESPONDENCE
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MICHAEL D. SCHWARTZ, NO. 44,326
NAME OF REGISTERED REPRESENTATIVE



SIGNATURE

December 2, 2003
DATE